

# NEWS BULLETIN

*of the*  
**American Committee  
for Armenian and Syrian  
Relief**

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## IN JERUSALEM WITH THE 20TH CENTURY CRUSADERS

"The last fortnight has been an exceptional one—6,000 refugees from Es Salt came pouring into Jerusalem in the course of a few days. We had already two or three thousand from the Northern villages, so you can imagine the congestion everywhere. The people fled for their lives from the Turks, a few bringing away their goats and tents. There are amongst them about



*"Six thousand refugees from Es Salt came pouring into Jerusalem in the course of a few days."*

1,700 Armenians, exiles from Marash, Adana, Aintab, Kessab and other towns, and a more pitiful sight I never saw. They have been wandering for three years and have scarcely a rag to cover them. They are clothed in old sacks, bits of tents, everything in fact, but chiefly in fresh air with margins and trimmings of rags! The children of course have entirely outgrown what they started with. A boy of twelve came in with nothing on him but a tiny shirt which did not nearly cover his body. The clothes made at the work room melt away like snow when we have to clothe people in such need, and I am afraid we have only material enough for another week unless some arrives in the meantime. Sewing cotton is one of our most urgent needs. We have bought nearly all there is in Jerusalem. Material is useless without the cotton to sew it."

The paragraph above taken from a letter written by Miss Katherine Fisher, relief worker in Jerusalem and recently received by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief in New York gives a glimpse of the necessity for the organized relief work that is being carried on in and about Jerusalem.

soup kitchen, when complete, will serve 2,000 persons. One portion is about 1½ pints and consists of a mixture of rice, water and salt. An appeal has been sent to the military authorities for the waste supplies of meat and fats from the army hospital, so that a more nourishing soup may be made. As the large number of poor



*Refugees making Shirts for the Army*

As Miss Fisher has intimated, one of the first great needs of the refugees, as they reach a place of safety, is proper clothing. According to the last report, in less than two weeks 2,417 garments have been given out where the need was most pressing. One thousand four hundred and sixty-one blankets were distributed, and still some have had to go almost naked.

Food is another serious problem. The Relief Committees provide rations of soup, with rice and milk where the exhausted state of the refugees makes it absolutely imperative. The last monthly report shows a distribution in Jerusalem of 1,728 tins of milk, an average daily distribution of 220 pounds of rice, an order of 4,000 oranges from Jaffa, and an increase over the previous month of 1,670 portions served at the soup kitchen. The

and destitute secure employment the numbers on the rations list will decrease.

Still there will be the sick and the little children to care for. Already the Relief Committees support two free dispensaries in Jerusalem, and up to the first of April, 6,500 cases had been attended to. For serious cases the English Hospital is available. An attempt is being made to have all refugees, as well as the city residents, vaccinated.

The little children, orphans, are being cared for as well as crowded buildings and temporary arrangements will permit. The Boys' Orphanage is caring for some 100 boys and the Girls' Orphanage and the "Shelter" for some 400 girls. For these orphanages the Committee has supplied five resident and three day workers. The older girls and boys are given re-

munerative employment and the younger ones are educated along industrial lines. The Committee is endeavoring to secure for these orphans guaranties for their individual support until they become self-supporting. Then they can be given over to English and American societies for more secure care. For the younger children who have parents, a day nursery has been established where they are cared for while their refugee mothers and fathers work for their support.

These destitute mothers, most of whom have been widowed through Turkish cruelty, are only too glad to work. But already more than a thousand applicants have had to be turned away from the Committee's work room on account of the lack of space and raw materials. Mrs. Vester, Relief Worker, writes: "If only we had the material it would be such a mercy if we could open a refugee work room where hundreds of refugee women and girls could make up the garments. They are, however, finding work through the army. They do an enormous amount of laundry work, mending of socks, and making of shirts."

The men and boys are also handicapped in their industrial work by the lack of supplies. When materials

come from Egypt 150 boys and men can be employed at skilled labor and 150 at common labor. The army is employing some of the men as tent repairers and as saddlers. Plans are being laid for establishing a button factory in Bethlehem where many skilled workers of mother-of-pearl remain unemployed.

The Relief Committees are trying to put the destitute back upon their feet and prevent the merchants of Jerusalem from doing a profiteering business and robbing the poor of the little they have. The Military Government, the Army and Navy Canteen Board, and the Relief Committees have combined and formed a chain of stores under a joint committee. Now it will be possible for everyone to buy at fair prices.

The Relief Committees have had heavy work and heavy expenses. Fourteen hours a day is the schedule of many of the workers. \$10,000 was this Committee's share for the chain-store's capital, \$5,000 a month goes for the soup kitchen alone, \$950 for medical relief, \$1,750 for orphanages, and much larger sums for industrial work and transportation. But the grateful and enterprising spirit of the refugees makes it all worth while.



## JUST ANOTHER

Dawn found the tired lad sleeping;  
Death kissed away his breath.  
His lonely heart was breaking  
For his mother cold in death.  
His home a heap of ashes  
Hunger and death his lot.  
Close the tear-stained lashes;  
Reverently mark the spot.  
Just another Armenian laddie  
Gone from a land of pain;  
Starved in a world of plenty.  
Oh! the shame! the shame!

—By Agnes V. Williams.

## American Commission for Persian Relief

Nowhere in the world at the present time is there more extensive suffering from starvation and disease than in Persia.

In response to recent cablegrams received from relief stations in Persia the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief is sending an expedition equipped with supplies to meet the appalling needs of these war-stricken people.

The Commission will be headed by Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University of Chicago. The other members are: Dr. Joseph W. Cook, of Washington, D. C., acting head of the Commission pending the arrival of Dr. Judson, Professor Roland S. Vaile, an agricultural expert of Riverside, California, Leland Rex Robinson, of Columbia University, F. Treadwell Smith, of Union Seminary, Reverend Livingston Bentley, of Auburn, New York, H. R. Holmes, born in Persia, now of Montour Falls, New York, Dr. E. W. McDowell, former missionary for the Presbyterian Board in Persia, Dr. A. V. W. Jackson, well known Persian scholar of Columbia University, and Mrs. Jackson.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson will sail at a later date, joining the first and second contingents of the Commission on the Persian Gulf.

The purpose of the Persian Commission is to reinforce the staff of workers already in Persia and help stem the tide of disease and destitution described in the following cablegrams recently received by the Committee:

*"The sum of seventy-five thousand is accepted with thanks. There is a great epidemic of typhoid and typhus and famine conditions are unexpectedly growing worse. Other Persian cities are similarly affected. The prices of foodstuffs are enormous. Dogs, dead animals, grass and even human beings are being eaten. An additional one hundred thousand should be sent at once if possible. More could be used."*

The medical supplies which the members of the Persian Commission are taking with them fill about ten tons of space on the steamer. There is a sufficient amount of typhoid serum for 50,000 people, and enough quinine for a quarter of a million. The total freight cargo including automobiles for transport amounts to eighty tons.

The Commission is also taking several automobiles and transport trucks which are necessary for the work of distribution.

Professor Vaile, the agricultural expert is taking a supply of seed from America and is fully authorized to purchase large quantities of grain and seed in India.

Since last November the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has cabled \$2,271,570 to Persia, which has given immediate relief in the form of food, clothing, bedding and shelter.

The increased number of workers, and fresh supplies will help to bring a new lease of life and hope to the destitute of Persia.



*"There is a never-ending line of visitors at my door, refugee women begging for work with which to earn their daily bread."—Extract from a recent letter.*

The War Chest plan aims to meet the demands of the numerous national war relief drives by carrying on a united campaign to care for all war relief assessments for the coming twelve months.

Four distinct plans have been evolved which vary in detail though one in principle. (1) "The War Chest Fund" cares for strictly national war relief activities. (2) "The Patriotic Fund" includes local charities as well as war relief in its budget. (3) "The Kenosha Plan," evolved in Kenosha, Wisconsin, bases its contribution toward relief funds upon the amount of Liberty Loan Bonds floated in the given community. (4) "The Council of Defense" also has unified all appeals, not only approving of various national organizations, but, through the members of their Council, conducting local campaigns for funds.

Many War Chest campaigns were conducted during the month of May, and 290 towns, cities and counties have not only adopted this plan but have raised funds to meet the demands of the community until June, 1919. Philadelphia is the largest city to adopt the War Chest plan. Splendid results were obtained in Detroit, Columbus, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Rochester, Springfield, Massachusetts, and communities stretching in a belt from Eastern Massachusetts, through Central New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has placed an application for a proportional share of these War Chest funds in the various towns and communities where the campaigns have been concluded. The disbursement committee for each of these funds have made an immediate and enthusiastic response to the appeal. This response has been made possible largely through the effective co-operation of the Local Armenian and Syrian Relief Committees with the generous assistance of contributors.

### Just a Bench

"In a school room crowded with sick people Dr. McDowell came across a fainting woman on a bench with a baby only a few days old in her arms. When she was sufficiently revived to talk, Dr. McDowell asked her where she was staying. 'Just here,' she replied. 'How long have you been here?' 'Two months,' she said. 'How do you sleep at night?' 'I lay the baby on the desk in front of me and lean against the post at my back. This is a very good place. Thank you very much.'"

### They Hungered

"The court yard outside our Compound is filled with women and children, mere bony skeletons. Dozens of other haggard deportation victims are pouring in hourly. At noon we passed out bowls of steaming soup and you should have seen how eagerly they grasped for them. We are doing all we can to give medical aid and shelter and food, but the funds at our command are so inadequate."

### The Last Lap

"One day a small boy painfully emaciated, his garments in tatters, arrived at a relief station dragging a little girl almost as large as himself. 'Mother said take care of her,' was all he could say. An hour later his brave spirit found rest. Upon investigation it was found that he had been deported from an Armenian village with his mother, a baby brother and little sister. Before many days the baby died. Finally the weakened mother could go no further. Before she passed away she had told her son to take care of his little sister and conduct her to the relief station.

Thirty miles the brave lad had traveled carrying his sister as long as his strength permitted. When he could drag her no farther he gave her the last of their food, and left her in safety before death overtook him."

## **Audited Reports of Relief Disbursements Received from Within the Ottoman Empire**

The old question, does relief reach the destitute, is conclusively answered by an extended report that has just reached the Committee from its representatives in Constantinople. This report includes an audited report accounting for the receipt and disbursement of all funds sent by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief. Not a dollar has been diverted or used in any way that would bring aid or comfort to the enemy.

\$3,573,179.91 has been distributed at fifty relief stations. In many of these cities American women remain alone braving the dangers of famine and pestilence to give relief to hungry Greek, Armenian and Syrian women and children. They are doing their utmost to save the lives of these destitute peoples. We in America must send them help and can we fail to do it when we read from their cables such sentences as follow:

*"For lack of funds forced to curtail relief to women many of whom die for lack of nourishing food."*

*"Large number formerly wealthy in absolute destitution and beggary."*

*"Many districts not touched because funds are insufficient."*

## **British Advance Frees Armenians**

The British advance in Mesopotamia toward Mosul has freed hundreds of Armenian women and children held captives by the Turks. These refugees are straggling into Bagdad.

A cablegram just received by the Committee reads:

*"Hundreds of emaciated refugees arriving daily. Funds needed."*

## **Magazines Contribute to Armenian and Syrian Relief**

Five hundred trade journals, popular and religious magazines have donated generously of their space for the presentation of Armenian and Syrian Relief cause. The value of these pages to the Committee is almost inestimable. Many of these magazines have given advertising pages, others editorial appeals, articles or cartoons.

The *Literary Digest* has not been content to give a single page, but has contributed monthly to the cause. The receipts from the appeals in this magazine now totals over \$250,000.

The following are extracts from a few of the hundreds of letters sent to the *Literary Digest* and the Armenian Relief Committee in response to the appeals:

"I have just read the appeal in the *Literary Digest*. I am a widow with two children and must earn our daily bread but I cannot give my own children their supper until I have sent a share to those motherless children across the seas. I enclose \$5.00 and wish it were more."

"On a recent business trip I saved \$2.50 for the Armenians by taking upper berths, etc. Enclosed please find check for the amount."

"My bit would have reached you sooner but I have been ill. I cannot walk yet but got busy with my telephone the day I read the article in the *Literary Digest*. I just called up 'Mothers' for \$1. Not one refused. I enclose our contribution of \$28.50. I wish I could do more."

"The \$5.00 I am enclosing for the Armenian sufferers was a birthday gift, and I had planned to spend it differently, but the appeal in the *Literary Digest* was too strong."

# Cablegrams

Received Through the Department of State, Washington, D. C.

## Persia

**Teheran**—"Helping five thousand families Teheran. Feeding four thousand daily Meshed. Extensive relief Hamadan, Kermanshah outlying districts. Destitution widespread."

**Teheran**—"The sum of seventy-five thousand is accepted with thanks. There is a great epidemic of typhoid and typhus and famine conditions are unexpectedly growing worse. Other Persian cities are similarly affected. The prices of foodstuffs are enormous. Dogs, dead animals, grass and even human beings are being eaten. An additional one hundred thousand should be sent at once if possible. More could be used."

**Teheran**—"Famine much worse. Present expenditures, two hundred thousand a month, but only partially meeting the existing distress. Send, if possible, two hundred fifty thousand."

## Message to the Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

"In a cablegram from the Persian Foreign Office received at this Legation yesterday, I am advised to present thanks to the Relief Societies of America, on behalf of the people in Persia. May I request if you will be kind enough to notify the societies concerned to this effect?"

Mirza Ali Kuli Khan.

## Asia Minor

**Constantinople**—"Fifteen centers heard from. Agents well and absorbed in relief and missionary work. Exceedingly high price of foodstuffs, scarcity fuel, lack of clothing, disease, want of medical supplies intensify suffering of destitute people. Numbers of orphans cared for steadily growing. All resources of deported exhausted. To continue work calls for larger expenditure, to discontinue would mean death to multitudes. Dollars or deaths! Increased giving of dollars means saving of lives of thousands."

## AMERICAN COMMITTEE for ARMENIAN and SYRIAN RELIEF

One Madison Avenue, New York

### NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Chairmen of Local Committees are Ex-officio Members of the National Committee

## MORE CABLEGRAMS

**Constantinople**—"Report received. Greatly encouraged that American people are doing so nobly for relief. Much accomplished but despite your large appropriations funds are not enough. Our agents forced to curtail credits to women many of whom die for the lack of nourishing food. Large number in absolute destitution and beggary. All centers plead earnestly for larger appropriations. Deported Armenians in Damascus district are not touched because funds are insufficient."

**Constantinople**—"Relief administered to extent of funds available from twenty important centers greatly ameliorates distressful condition but large numbers within reach are not affected. Many die because of prolonged under feeding. Rations in some centers hundred grams of bread and soup once a day. It is pitiful to see gaunt figures clad in rags passing from door to door begging for food in wailing tones. Hundreds of children are walking about the streets trying to pick up livings. Reduction and limitation of appropriation will add greatly to this number and sadly increase the awful wastage of life. This pitiful cry pleads for increased supply. Is it not possible to restore appropriation to original figure at least for saving life."

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### Palestine

**Jerusalem, via Cairo**—"Our records show twenty thousand individuals helped in Jerusalem. Laundry and mending contracts for army undertaken. Government now transporting fifteen hundred Armenian refugees

Jerusalem to Port Said. Others coming from Southeast. Hospital established Mejdal near Gaza doing excellent work. Conditions Ramallah region greatly improved, employment provided for all. Funds low. Cable eighty thousand dollars."

**Cairo**—"Main party Red Cross expedition arriving Port Said June tenth. Field assigned, by authorities, eastern Palestine northern front to Beersheba, base hospital in Jerusalem. Four advance members arrived Jerusalem. Zionist medical units allocated Maritime Plain, headquarters Jaffa. Relief under McInnes, committee now occupying twelve buildings, Jerusalem four assistant professors join staff for summer. Cleland doing remarkably fine work. Nurses, doctors, pharmacists, graduates, Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, efficiently holding many posts showing quality college training. Six hundred women employed sewing clothing for refugees. Washing, mending, thousands garments daily for army, forms new industry. Eighty children from these families received day nursery. Boys' trade school open shortly. Aim of industrializing relief work gradually being realized. Seven thousand unemployed fed soup kitchens. Six hundred Russian women pilgrims also receiving rations. Moslem Sheikhs, of Jerusalem, addressed letter of thanks to American public. Army officers show unfailing goodwill co-operation every branch relief. Companies Armenian refugees escaped from Kerak daily arriving Jerusalem, stripped. Crops good but much land unsown owing to shortage two thousand yoke oxen. We offer to assist by importing cattle from India or Sudan."